

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for aligning bank notes in a transport system, with the following steps:
 - detecting an alignment of a bank note being transported separately in the transport system,
 - determining from the detected alignment a deviation of the single bank note from a desired alignment wherein two edges of the bank note extend parallel to the transport direction of the transport system,
 - aligning the single bank note in the desired alignment by displacing the single bank note in a non-contacting fashion using one air flow, which aligns the single bank note by displacing the bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction based on the deviation,
 - detecting the alignment of the single bank note during the aligning, said aligning while the bank note to be aligned is being transported in the transport direction, and
 - terminating the aligning, as soon as the single bank note has the desired alignment, wherein said one air flow is stopped before the bank note has the desired alignment and an inertia of the bank note is permitted to achieve the alignment.
2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance is determined of the single bank note at least one of from a bank note located in front of it in the transport system or to a bank note located after it in the transport system, and the single bank note is at least one of slowed down or stopped, so as to achieve a predetermined distance between the single bank note and the bank note located at least one of in front of it or after it in the transport system, if the determined distance does not correspond to the predetermined distance.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aligning bank notes in a transport system, with

- a device for detecting an alignment of a bank note being transported separately in the transport system,
- a device for determining from the detected alignment a deviation of the single bank note from a desired alignment wherein two edges of the bank note extend parallel to the transport direction of the transport system, and
- means for aligning the single bank note in the desired alignment by displacing the bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction, while the bank note to be aligned is being transported in the transport direction, said means controlled by the device for determining a deviation,

wherein

- the device for detecting the alignment detects the alignment of the single bank note in the area of the means for aligning, while the means for aligning is aligning the single bank note, and
- the device for determining a deviation stops the means for aligning, as soon as the single bank note has the desired alignment;

wherein the means for aligning act on the single bank note in a non-contacting fashion and produce one air flow, which aligns the single bank note by displacing the bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction of the transport system;

wherein said one air flow produced by the means for aligning is stopped before the bank note has the desired alignment and the means for aligning permits an inertia of the bank note to achieve the alignment.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the device for detecting the alignment detects a two-dimensional area.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the means for aligning mechanically act on the single bank note.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the means for aligning have at least one roller, which aligns the single bank note by displacing the

bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction of the transport system.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the means for aligning at least have one component, which removes the means for aligning from the single bank note.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the device for detecting an alignment and the device for determining from the detected alignment detect and determine the distance between the single bank note and a bank note located in front of it in at least one of the transport system and a bank note located after it in the transport system, and that a device, controlling the device for checking the detected alignment, at least one of slows down and stops the single bank note, so as to achieve a predetermined distance between the single bank note and the bank note located at least one of in front of it or after it in the transport system, if the determined distance does not correspond to the predetermined distance.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the device for at least one of slowing down or stopping the single bank note mechanically acts on the bank note.
12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the transport system has a guiding element, against which the single bank note is directed by the means for aligning, the guiding element having the desired alignment.
13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the apparatus and the transport system are components of an automatic counter for receiving bank notes.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the apparatus and the transport system are components of a bank-note processing machine for at least one of counting, checking or sorting bank notes.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the device for detecting the alignment comprises a camera.
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said means for aligning comprises a pair of rollers having an alignment not parallel to the transport direction, each of the rollers disposed to contact respectively opposing surfaces of the bank note.
17. (Canceled).
18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the aligning step, the bank note is aligned by displacing the bank note in a direction substantially orthogonal to the transport direction.
19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the means for aligning displaces the bank note in a direction substantially orthogonal to the transport direction.
20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the alignment of the pair of rollers is substantially orthogonal to the transport direction.